

Science, Service, Stewardship



Marine Recreational Information Program: Overview

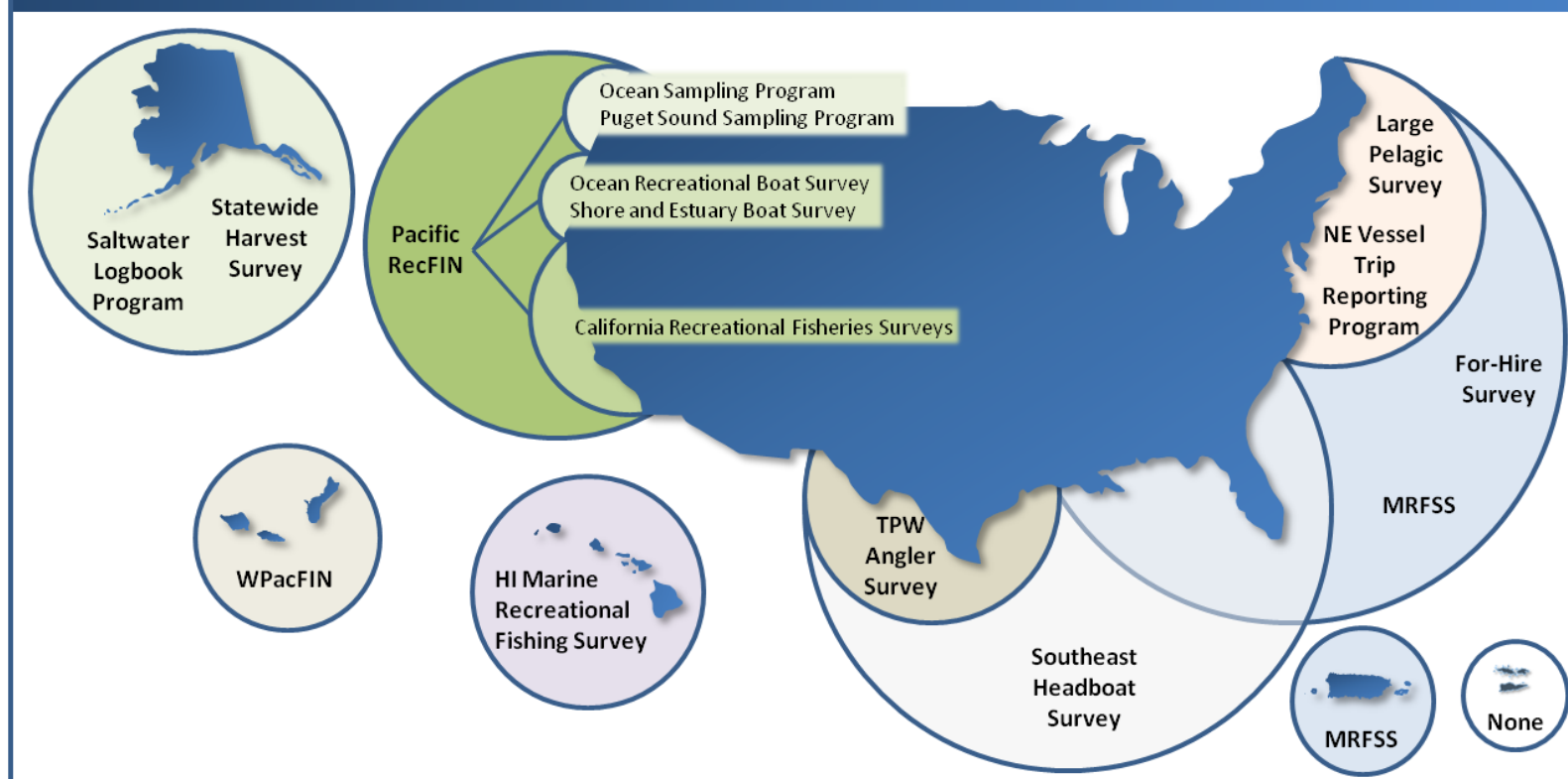
Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee
October 4, 2010

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



How Did We Get Here?

Existing Regional Recreational Angler Data Collection Programs





Where We're Going

Goal: The MRIP goal is a nationwide system of surveys operating with consistent standards and sufficient flexibility to meet national, regional, and state needs, and to provide reliable information about recreational fishing in a timely manner to support effective and fair management



National Strategy

- Regional flexibility
- Development of survey design, estimation and management standards and best practices
 - Utilization of angler registries as sample frames
 - Unbiased sampling and estimation designs
- For-hire specific data collection approaches
- Quality assurance and quality control standards
- Enhanced information management and data dissemination tools



Regional Surveys

Regional survey partners will make their own decisions to meet regional needs within the “umbrella” guidance of MRIP to apply survey parameters such as:

- Basic survey design choices
- Coverage and resolution beyond standard minimums
- For-hire data collection approach
- Biological sampling requirements



NRC Recommendations (Summary)

- Improve the process.
 - Ensure that survey methods are sound.
- Once that's complete, build out additional tools to meet specific needs.
- Throughout, make sure to engage stakeholders and customers in the process to:
 - Create a better product.
 - Ensure broad buy-in of end product.



Addressing NRC Recommendations

- Develop comprehensive, universal sampling frame with national coverage;
- Dual-frame procedures should be used whenever possible to reduce sample bias;
- The estimation procedure for information gathered onsite does not use nominal or actual selection probabilities of the sampling design, and therefore, has the potential to produce biased estimates;
- Onsite methods fail to intercept anglers who have private access to fishing waters;



Addressing NRC Recommendations

- Charter, party and other for-hire recreational fishing operations should be required to maintain logbooks of fish landed and kept as well as fish caught and released;
- The survey fails to provide a valid and reliable method of accounting adequately for fish caught and not brought back to the dock;
- Panel surveys, which contact anglers repeatedly through time, should be considered;
- Development and maintenance of a central data warehouse for recreational fisheries and development of appropriate dissemination tools (Role of Federal Agency).

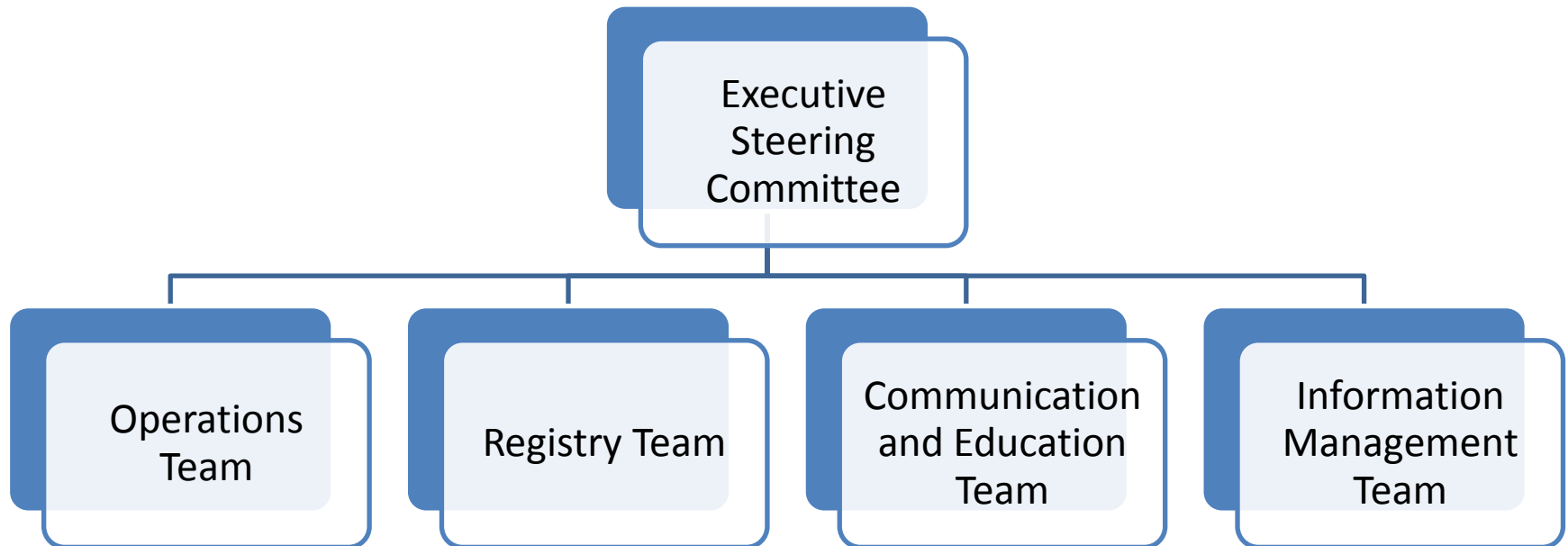


MSRA Mandates

- Establish and implement a regionally based registry program for recreational fishermen in each of the 8 fishery management regions
- In consultation with stakeholders, establish a program to improve the quality and accuracy of information with a goal of achieving acceptable accuracy and utility for each individual fishery.
- To the extent possible, implement the recommendations of the NRC report.
 - An adequate number of dockside interviews to assure accurate statistics;
 - Collection and analysis of vessel trip report data from for-hire fishing;
 - Surveys that utilize Federal or State registries of anglers and vessels;
 - Development of a weather corrective factor to apply to catch and effort statistics
 - Establishment of an independent committee to review data and statistics, identify deficiencies, and determine appropriate correction measures.

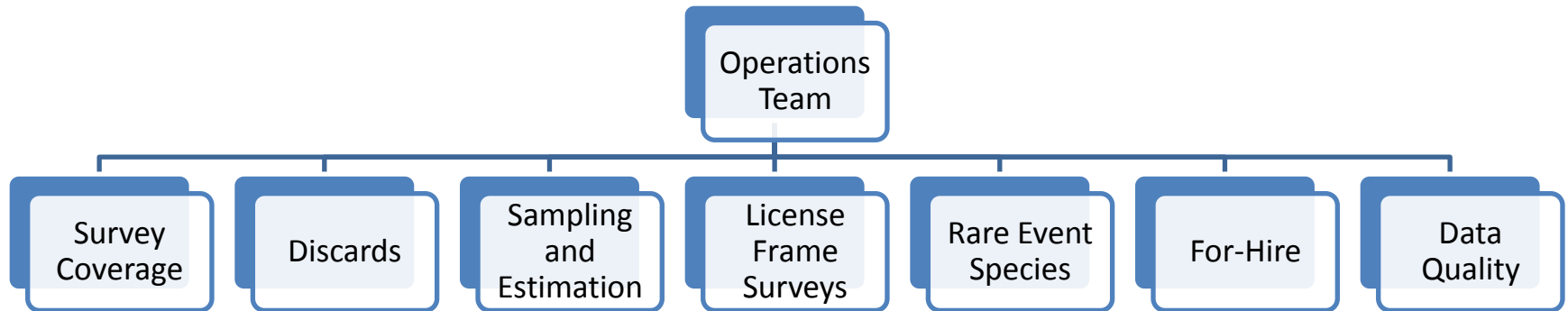


MRIP Governance Structure





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- Charged with developing and recommending improvements to data collection programs under the auspices of MRIP. Each year, the team identifies and prioritizes research needs for the coming year and commissions work groups or teams to develop projects to address top priorities.



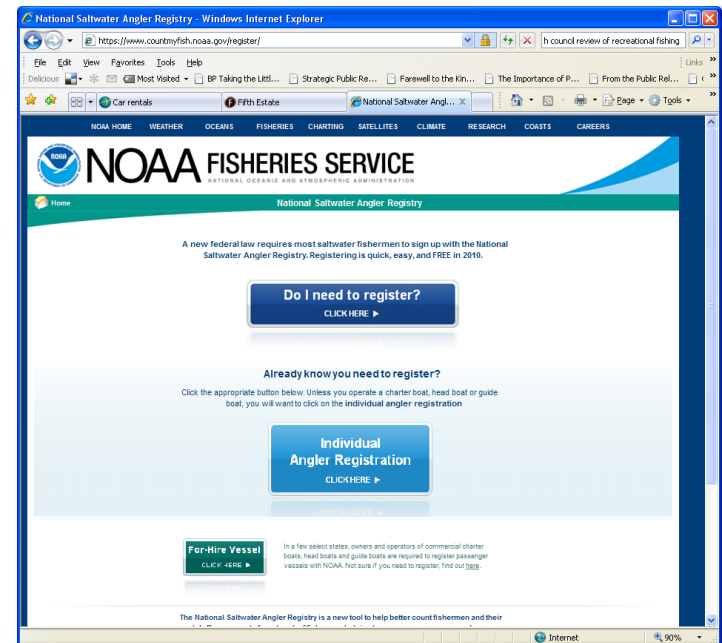
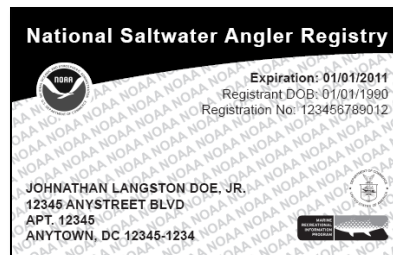
MRIP Governance Structure

- **Information Management Team**
 - Supports national-level processing and management of data.
 - Facilitates coordination and ensures the comparability and compatibility of fishing statistics among regional data collection programs.



MRIP Governance Structure

- **National Saltwater Angler Registry Team**
 - Responsible for creating and implementing the Registry.

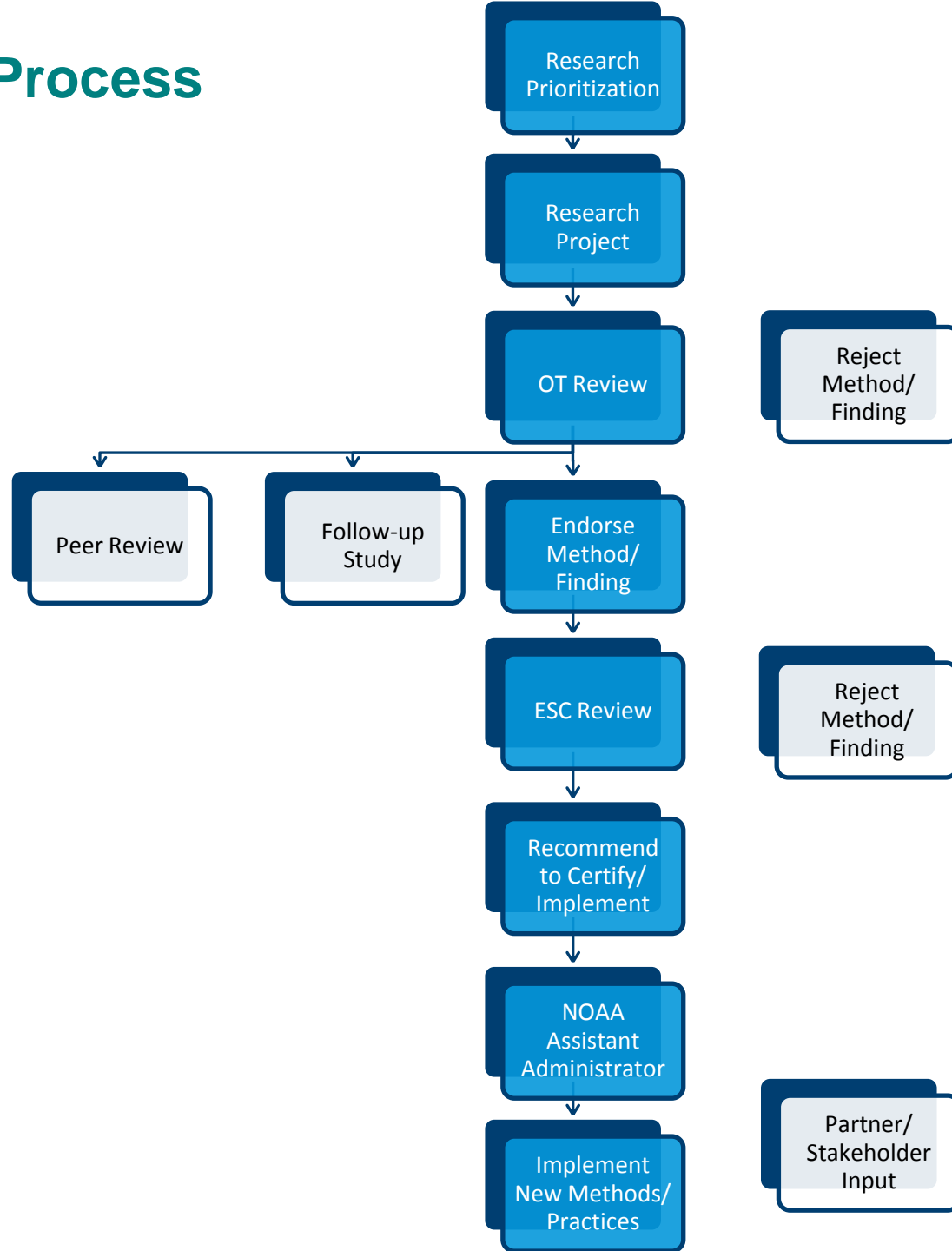




MRIP Governance Structure

- **Communications and Education Team**
 - Responsible for coordinating both “outbound” and “inbound” information among NOAA, the MRIP team, data customers and stakeholders.

The MRIP Process

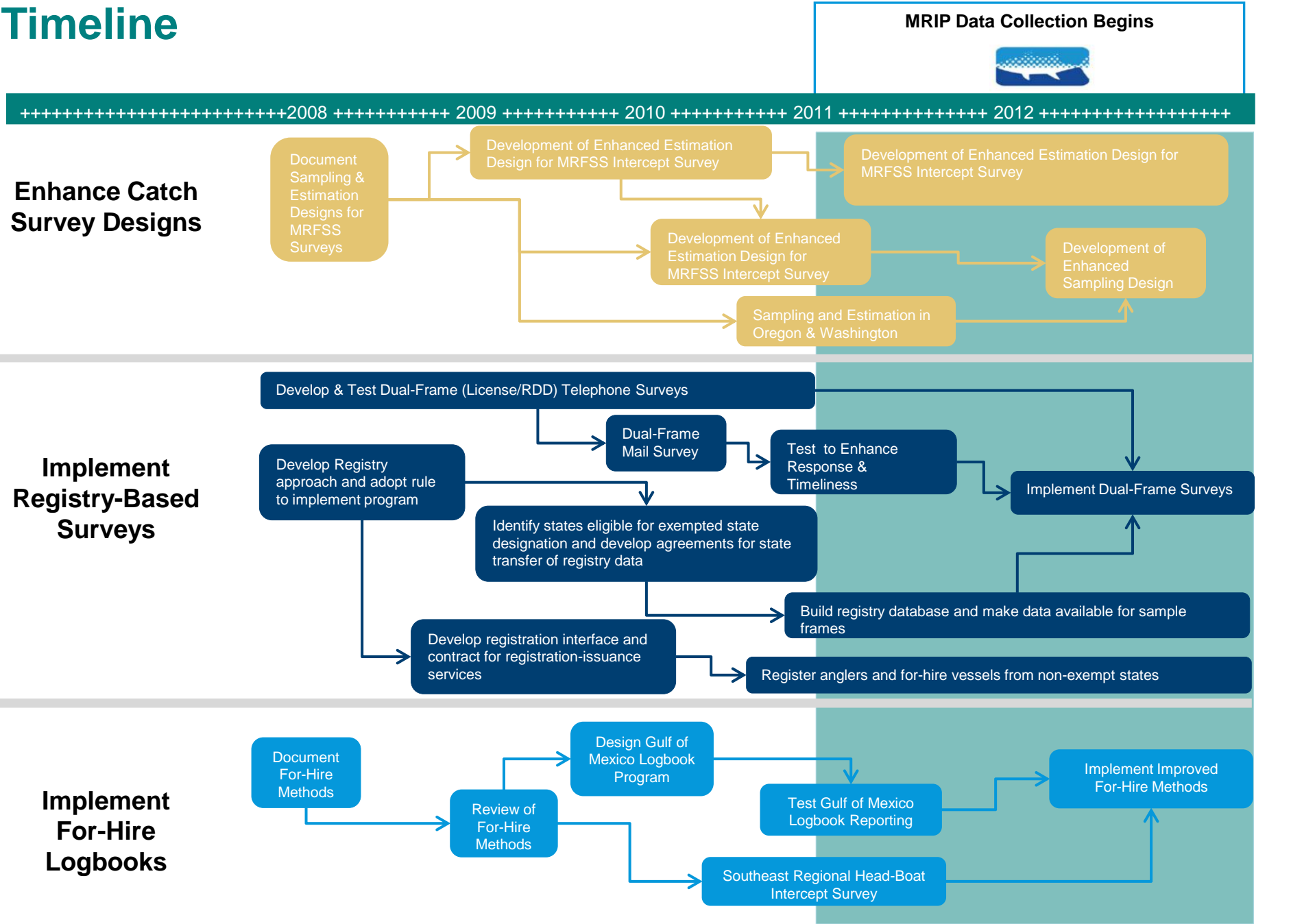




Hallmarks of MRIP

- **Process**
 - Developing and certifying scientifically sound survey and estimation methods.
 - Making methods available for regional use.
- **Flexibility**
 - Dynamic program that can adapt to emerging science changing management needs.
- **Engagement**
 - Transparent process with stakeholder participation.

MRIP Implementation Timeline





Management and Uncertainty

- Fisheries managers will use MRIP similar to how they use current estimates to make decisions.
- In the short term, MRIP will mean greater certainty in the **quality** of the estimates.
 - By its very nature an estimate is not a precise number.
- In the longer term, MRIP can allow for such things as:
 - More frequent surveys.
 - Incorporating of complementary data sets.
 - Other strategies for meeting customer needs.



Discussion